



Mental Health Transformation Grant

Second Story County of Santa Cruz - California

Local Service Area: Santa Cruz County, CA

Primary Service Focus: Trauma and Justice

Secondary Focus: Jobs and Economy

Project Director: Yana Jacobs

Project Team Members: Elizabeth Soria, Betsy Clark, Jan Hilkert, Leslie Tremaine

CMHS Project Officer: Mary Blake

Evidence-Based Practice(s): Intentional Peer Support (IPS)

Project Description: *Second Story* is a peer-staffed crisis residential program (PCR) that fills a critical gap in the Santa Cruz County Mental Health's service delivery system by providing a recovery-based alternative to existing hospital-driven emergency services. In providing peer-operated support to individuals in crisis, *Second Story* provides training, employment, and empowerment opportunities and substantially contributes to the system's overall transformation. The goals of *Second Story* are to 1) provide recovery-oriented, trauma-informed peer and formal support in a crisis respite and 2) provide training to peers in Intentional Peer Support (IPS) and trauma-informed care. The objectives of *Second Story* are to 1) provide services for adult consumers; 2) reduce emergency hospitalizations for acute psychiatric crises; 3) foster recovery for individuals with serious mental illness; 4) reduce costs for services; 5) increase meaningful choices for recovery for consumers in Santa Cruz County; 6) establish a true Consumer Operated PCR within 5 years. The project employs evidence-based practices and fidelity instruments developed and validated by leaders of the peer-support and peer research communities. *Second Story* provides a haven and recovery-oriented peer and formal support to adults who qualify for public mental health services, including homeless individuals, and people in supported housing and board and care facilities.